

the remarks of the legendary JOHN LEWIS.

I also stand in praise of CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS, who, yesterday, came with all the grace and eloquence to talk about the need to bring the country together in the aftermath of what took place up in Boston, and to bring comfort to families.

Yesterday, the other body brought little comfort to families, especially families from Newtown, Connecticut, who had traveled there, who had lobbied, and were looking for a common-sense, practical answer to a solution that plagues this country.

They got a vote. The vote was 54-46. But no fifth-grader waking up in America today says how could you get a vote of 54-46 and lose?

This is the most deliberative body in America, the House of Representatives, and we owe the people of this country, whether from Newtown, or whether from Aurora or wherever you are, in Chicago or across this great Nation of ours, we come here with a responsibility to vote.

#### SIMPLIFY THE TAX CODE

(Mr. PITTENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTENGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay respect to those faithful Americans who filed their tax returns this week, only with a stark reminder of the enormous burden we have placed upon them with our complicated Tax Code.

You know, it's been like a snowball going down a hill. It just gets bigger and more bloated and more cumbersome with each passing year. It's become an avalanche on the back of the American taxpayer.

Mr. Speaker, this needs to stop. We've added 4,400 changes to the Tax Code just in the last 10 years. We can make it better.

House Republicans have a plan. We have a plan to reform the Tax Code, to make it simpler, to make it fairer, to make it responsible to the American people, to put more money in their paychecks and to give more money to them to take care of their families.

Mr. Speaker, American taxpayers deserve better, and we're going to do it.

#### CAP TO CAP

(Mr. BERA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BERA. Mr. Speaker, this week, over 300 individuals, community leaders from my hometown of Sacramento, came out here to share with us their vision of how we move forward. They came here on the 43rd Annual CAP to CAP visit. This is the largest trip of its type.

Here's what those community leaders asked. They wanted us to understand the number one job for us to do is to

create jobs, to get America working again. They wanted to make sure we invested in the innovation economy, and they wanted us to do what we've always done historically, rebuild our infrastructure. For us back home that means rebuilding our levees, our roads, and our highways.

They want Washington, D.C., to start getting about the business of pushing this country forward. I applaud these community leaders because this is exactly what citizen-led democracy looks like.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the Sacramento Metro Chamber of Commerce for their leadership, and I look forward to the 44th Annual CAP to CAP next year.

#### REFLECTIONS ON TAX FREEDOM DAY

(Mr. HULTGREN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, for my neighbors and friends back home in Illinois, and families across the country, today is Tax Freedom Day, the date after which the average American worker will finally start earning money for themselves after working just to pay their Federal, State, and local tax obligations in 2013, meaning it takes all of the wages earned by the average worker from January 1 to April 18 just to pay off this year's tax debt. Pretty astounding.

To put it in perspective, back in 1900, Tax Freedom Day was January 22, when taxes amounted to 5.9 percent of a person's income. Today that figure has grown to 29.4 percent.

We've come a long way in the past century, digging deeper and deeper into the pockets of hardworking men and women in America, and digging ourselves deeper into debt in the process.

The tax reform component of the budget this House passed in March would take a major step forward, allowing families to keep more of the money they earn and making government more accountable.

Let's finish the job this year.

#### SENATE VOTE ON BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR GUN BUYERS

(Ms. ESTY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to address the House as the Representative for Newtown. Over the last 4 months, I've had the honor of getting to know many families in Newtown. These parents live with grief so deep that any mother or father can only begin to imagine.

I was honored to join these families, Governor Malloy, and members of both parties as a bipartisan gun violence prevention law was signed into law in Connecticut.

Connecticut has shown that Democrats and Republicans can work together, that a special interest and their small minority cannot stand in the way of common sense and doing the right thing.

Yesterday was a shameful day. I'm outraged that 46 Senators prevented a compromise to reduce gun violence which 92 percent of the American people support. Forty-six Senators ignored the voices of the courageous Newtown families, who have paid the ultimate price of political inaction.

I join the message of the Sandy Hook Promise and Mark Barden, who lost his son, Daniel, in the tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary.

Our hearts are broken. Our spirits are not.

#### AMNESTY DEFINED

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, there is much discussion these days about immigration and what amnesty means. But the definition is clear.

In Black's Law Dictionary, "A pardon extended by the government to a group or class of persons. The 1986 Immigration Reform and Control Act provided amnesty for undocumented aliens already present in the country."

That's exactly what the Senate immigration bill does.

And from the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, amnesty is "The act of an authority (as a government) by which pardon is granted to a large group of individuals."

Again, that's exactly what the Senate immigration bill does.

You could say that the Senate immigration bill amounts to amnesty-plus, since illegal immigrants are pardoned, plus are allowed to become citizens.

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#### NATIONAL DAY OF SILENCE

(Mr. POCAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POCAN. I join today with my colleagues to observe the National Day of Silence, which began 13 years ago, to raise awareness of the hurtful and often long-term silencing effects that anti-LGBT name-calling, bullying, and harassment has on our young people. It's a tragic fact of our society that almost all LGBT youth know what it's like to be bullied or harassed because of their identified or perceived sexual orientation. Surveys show that nearly 9 out of every 10 LGBT students have experienced harassment in our schools.

Mr. Speaker, our schools should be a place of learning and growth, where every student, no matter their background or orientation, should be safe and free to reach their full potential.